

Cowichan Watershed Board Meeting

DRAFT MINUTES



February 16, 2015
2:00 pm to 4:15 pm

**Location: CVRD Boardroom,
2nd Floor, 175 Ingram, Duncan, BC**

Participants: Cowichan Watershed Board

Chair: CVRD Chair Jon Lefebure

1) Welcome; Introductions, Opening Remarks	<p>The Chair welcomed members noting that the meeting. He noted Dr. Lorna Medd will not be continuing with the Watershed Board. Dr. David Froese is expected to be joining the Watershed Board subject to confirmation of his appointment.</p>
2) Approval of Agenda	<p>The agenda was approved with an amendment that the date of meeting that the Minutes to which the minutes pertain be changed to December 13, 2014.</p>
3) Approval of Minutes of December 13, 2014 meeting and Business Arising from Minutes	<p>The minutes were approved as presented.</p>
4) CWB Governance Update	<p>Revisions to the Cowichan Watershed Board Terms of Reference were approved as presented. It was also proposed that Rob Hutchins be invited to serve as a special advisor to the Cowichan Watershed Board. Recommended Action: Rob Hutchins is to be invited to serve as a Special Advisor to the Board regarding community outreach.</p>
5) Target Updates	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li data-bbox="123 1371 248 1400">• Flows <p>The Coordinator reported that there is still no progress to report on the Environmental Appeal Hearing decision regarding operation of the Catalyst weir at Lake Cowichan. CWB members were asked to comment on alternatives for assuring adequate flows in the Cowichan River. Those alternatives can be found at INSERT LINK.</p> <p>Recommended Action: The Coordinator is to contact the Environmental Appeal Board (EAB) and send a letter expressing concern regarding the slowness of the EAB process. Members wishing to submit comments regarding alternatives for assuring adequate flows should submit them directly to Hamid Hatami hhatami@cvrd.bc.ca .</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li data-bbox="123 1780 347 1810">• Water Quality <p>Tom Rutherford presented an update on estuarine health and water quality targets noting that significant progress is being made and that that it would be valuable to confer with Chief Planes of the Sooke First Nation and federal shellfish experts to seek their advice. In addition there is a plan to pursue a demonstration project and a clear need to recruit additional funding to continue monitoring and momentum on a number</p>

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Riparian • • Conservation/Communications 	<p>of projects. It was also noted that there is a Marine Bylaw meeting on February 19, 2015 in Cowichan Bay. Tom's presentation is at http://www.cowichanwatershedboard.ca/sites/default/files/WaterQuality-EstuarineHealth-Target-WorkingGroupUpdate-16Feb2015.pdf</p> <p>Recommended Actions: The coordinator was requested to prepare a letter of support for the Marine Bylaw and arrange that Chief Planes be invited to attend an upcoming Board meeting along with federal officials.</p> <p>The coordinator reported that there was little news concerning the riparian protection and restoration. The Cowichan Lake and River Stewards have held a field trip and will be holding another one in the near future. It was also noted that TimberWest had kindly developed a map of the lake showing shoreline general shoreline ownership at Lake Cowichan. That map can be found at http://www.cowichanwatershedboard.ca/sites/default/files/LakeCowichanOwnership.pdf .</p> <p>Jill Thompson provided a presentation on the status of the Water Conservation initiative in 2014 and indicated plans for 2015. That presentation can be found at http://www.cowichanwatershedboard.ca/sites/default/files/2014-Water-Conservation-summary-presentation.pdf .</p>
<p>6) 2015 Workplan</p>	<p>Rodger Hunter presented a draft 2015 workplan which can be found at http://cowichanwatershedboard.ca/sites/default/files/CWB-work-plan-and-budget-2015-draft.pdf . Successful implementation of the work plan is subject to funding.</p> <p>Recommendation: The Board recommended that the Cowichan Watershed Society approve the workplan.</p>
<p>7) Other Issues –Next meeting –date, time etc.</p>	<p>It was reported that Cowichan Watershed Board received a response from Minister Steve Thomson to its request to close fishing on the Cowichan during low flows while fish were vulnerable. The Board's request was declined.</p> <p>It was proposed that for 2015 the date and time of Watershed Board meetings be at 0930 to noon on the first Monday of the month on alternate months and as required.</p> <p>Society meetings will follow immediately after the Watershed Board meetings.</p> <p>Recommended Action: The Coordinator will determine whether Board members who were unable to attend the February 16 are able to attend meetings on the first Monday of the month from 9:30 until noon commencing March 2nd.</p>